

Andrew Jackson to John Coffee, December 27, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN COFFEE.

Fort Strother, December 27, 1813.

D'r Genl: I recd. from colo. Carrol a letter last night from Huntsville advising me, that he had reached that neighbourhood with about six hundred men, and when he reached there, was informed by the officers that they were enrolled for sixty days only. There being no law to authorise such an acceptance, or the payment of troops for such a period, and it being expressly contrary to my order, I can take no responsibility on myself for bringing them into the field or that they will be paid, I have wrote Colo. Carroll on this subject, and requested him to shew you the letter, and desired him frankly to explain to the new vollunteers there situation. after this is done, I say to him to Tender those brave men my thanks for their patriotism, and offerred aid at this important crisis, with my pledge, if they will Join me under these circumstances I shall gladly accept of their services etc etc and I refer you to the letter, on this head as well as on pushing up the Cavalry and mounted men, with the new volunteers, and make a rapid movement. This on the conditions in the letter to Colo Carroll I wish done and inclose you an order, for that purpose, should you think it advisable, after perusing and considering my letter. I am more than anxious to do this at the present moment as I know it would be gratifying to the volunteers and some others if the campaign could be defeated. But this shall not be done. But still in this movement altho gratifying I will not attempt it under circumstances that would hazard defeat and certain disgrace. I have wrote to Genl cocke, and frankly to governor Blount. I have stated to him candidly, that in hesitating to order a draft, he takes upon himself the responsibility of the disobedience of the late law of the state, and the failure of the campaign. if it should fail

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I am determined to shew I have done my duty. If the mounted men comes on, with the madison troops they will form a Brigade. I wish if your health permits you to command them, but my wishes in this is not to overrule your own. you have I hope recd my reply to the address of the honourable men who was urging for an honourable discharge, with the pledge of both field and staff. I have to repeat again to have their Pledge, their memorial and my answer published in the Huntsville paper and then in the Nashville paper. in great Haste yrs sincerely